

REMARKS

The above identified application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action of the United States Patent and Trademark Office mailed March 3, 2004. By the present Amendment, dependent claims 6, 11 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-5, 8-10, 13 and 15-17 are canceled herein without prejudice. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to continue prosecution of the subject matter of these claims by way of one or more continuation applications. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claim 15 was objected to under 35 C.F.R. §1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 14. Claim 15 has been canceled herein.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,721 to Nicholson et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,948,000 to Larsen et al. Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 16-17 have been canceled herein. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of these claims and will seek to continue prosecution of the subject matter of these claims by way of one or more continuation applications.

Claims 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,702,397 to Gobelet et al. Claims 10 and 13 have been canceled herein. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants respectfully reserve the right to continue prosecution of the subject matter of these claims by way of one or more continuation applications.

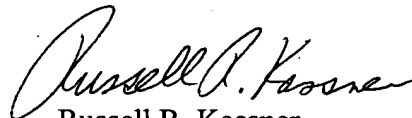
Applicants note with appreciation the allowability of claims 6-7, 11-12 and 14-15 if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening

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claims. As noted above, claims 6, 11 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims present and pending in the application, namely, claims 6-7, 11-12 and 14 are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Russell R. Kassner
Reg. No. 36,183
Attorney for Applicant(s)

CARTER, DELUCA, FARRELL & SCHMIDT, LLP
445 Broad Hollow Road - Suite 225
Melville, New York 11747
(631) 501-5700
(631) 501-3526 (fax)

Correspondence Address:

Chief Patent Counsel
United States Surgical, A
Division of Tyco Healthcare Group LP
150 Glover Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06856